(b) if so, what are the advantages of having such a Board;

(c) what are the views of experts in this regard; and

(d) what procedure has been adopted for obtaining the expert opinion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (d) The term of the present Boards of Directors of Air India and Indian Airlines is upto the 30th of June, 1989. There is at present no specific proposal under consideration of Government regarding a common Board for Air India and Indian Airlines.

Safety of air travellers

106. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after an accident of aircraft at Ahmedabad, the Foreign Tourist traffic by air travel has come down; and

(b) what measures Government have taken to eliminate the negligence on the part of both the ground engineering, checking staff and the pilots to a certain degree of safe travel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Suitable steps as required will be taken after receipt and examination of recommendations of the Court of Inquiry appointed to investigate into the accident.

Visit of Australian Prime Minister

107. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australian Prime Minister visited India recently;

(b) if so, the nature of discussions held with the visiting Prime Minister; and

(c) what is the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Australian Prime Minister visited India from February 9-12, 1989.

(b) The discussions covered bilateral, regional and international matters.

(c) India and Australia have signed Memoranda of Understanding on (i) Concessional Finance for Projects of Mutual Benefit; (ii) Railways; (iii) Telecommunications; and (iv) Meteorology. A firm foundation has been laid for enhancing the level of relations between our two countries.

Developing Hyderabad as International Airport

108. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any facilities are being added to Hyderabad-airport for facilitating the said airport to become International airport; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Hyderabad airport is already handling limited international flights. However, an Automatic Message Switching Sytem (AMSS) and Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR) are planned to be provided at Hyderabad airport. Besides, construction of a separate International Terminal Block at Hyderabad is planned during 1989-90.